

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:
App. No.: Daniel D. Bloch, et al. Confirmation No.: 5823
Filed: 09/966,987 Group Art Unit: 2877
September 28, 2001 Examiner: Roy M. Punnoose
For: APPARATUS FOR MEASURING CHARACTERISTICS
OF A HOLE AND ASSOCIATED METHOD

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

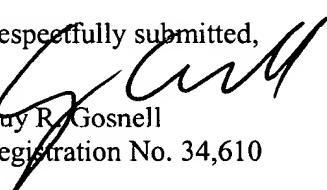
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 21, 2004, in which the Examiner has required restriction between Group I, namely Claims 1-11 and 17-26, and Group II, namely Claims 12-16. Applicant hereby provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1-11 and 17-26) and expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

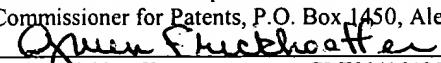
Respectfully submitted,


Guy R. Gosnell
Registration No. 34,610

CUSTOMER NO. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 21, 2004


Gwen Dickhoeffer CLT01/4648533